

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 10/715,167 filed on November 17, 2003. Claims 1-50 are pending in the application. Claims 8-11 and 18-39 are withdrawn. Claims 1-7, 12-17, and 40-50 are rejected. Withdrawn claims are canceled without prejudice.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7, 12-17, and 40-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bolt (U.S. Patent No. 6,766,412, hereafter referred to as Bolt) or rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated under U.S. Publication No. 2002/0144048, the prior publication corresponding to Bolt. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Applicants have amended several of the claims to clarify terminology.

Claims 1-7 distinguish over Bolt which does not disclose "the control element presenting at least two associated mirror devices of the plurality of tape storage devices as separate media devices." In contrast, Bolt does not present the associated mirror devices as separate media devices but rather "a single incoming host request for I/O to a particular device 148 is transformed into two I/O requests for two physically separate devices 148 (mirrored pair)" (Col. 18, lines 2-5). Bolt also does not disclose "selectively controlling data transfer in the at least two associated mirror devices . . . in a split mode so that writes are written to the tape storage devices independently without mirroring." Specifically, Bolt does not disclose the operation of devices presented as mirror-associated (for example to a host) in two modes including a synchronous mode and in a split mode wherein writes to one device is not mirrored to the other device(s).

Claim 3 further distinguishes over Bolt, which does not disclose "a SPLIT command directed to the at least two associated mirror devices by enabling writing to a primary tape storage device and to a secondary tape storage device separately without mirroring."

Claims 12-17 distinguish over Bolt which does not disclose "a control element . . . selectively controlling data transfer in a synchronous mode so that writes to a target tape storage media are mirrored to a mirrored tape storage media and in a split mode so that writes are written to the target tape storage media and the mirrored tape storage media independently without mirroring."

Claim 17 further distinguishes over Bolt, which does not disclose "control element [that] responds to the SPLIT command by disabling mirror functionality and writing to a primary tape storage device and to a secondary tape storage device separately without mirroring."

Claims 40-44 distinguish over Bolt which does not disclose "selectively control[ling] data transfer in a synchronous mode so that writes to a target tape storage media are mirrored to a mirrored tape storage media and in a split mode so that writes are written to the target tape storage ~~array~~ media and the mirrored tape storage media independently without mirroring."

Claim 44 further distinguishes over Bolt, which does not disclose "the controller [that responds] to the SPLIT command by disabling mirror functionality and writing to a primary tape storage device and to a secondary tape storage device separately without mirroring."

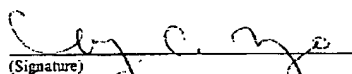
Claims 45-49 distinguish over Bolt which does not disclose "the tape mirror presenting at least two associated mirror tape drives of the plurality of tape drives as separate media devices, . . . and selectively transferring the data in a synchronous mode so that writes to a target tape media of the at least two associated mirror tape drives are mirrored to a mirrored tape media of the at least two associated mirror tape drives; and in a split mode so that writes are written to the at least two associated mirror tape drives independently without mirroring."

Claim 50 distinguishes over Bolt which does not disclose "selectively controlling data transfer in at least two associated mirror tape storage media in a synchronous mode so that writes to a target tape storage media of the at least two associated mirror tap storage media are mirrored to a mirrored tape storage media of the at least two associated mirror tap storage media and in a split mode so that writes are written to the target tape storage media and the mirrored tape storage media independently without mirroring."

CONCLUSION

The application, including all remaining Claims 1-7, 12-17, and 40-50, is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

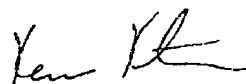
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, Central Number at (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below:


(Signature)

Joy C. Ngo
(Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)

September 25, 2006
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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